from the Ministry of Rural Development sent abroad on foreign postings/assignments during the last five years and the number of persons belonging to SCs and STs among them and their percentage as compared to the total of such assignments?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA): (a) Three Memoranda were submitted to the Prime Minister on 17.12.96, 1.9.97 and 23.7.98 by the Parliamentary Forum for SC & ST.

(b) In so far as the Ministry of Rural Development is concerned, while no officer was sent on foreign posting/foreign assignment during the last five years, the services of three officers were lent, on request, to Inter-Governmental/International Organisations. None of the three officers belongs to SCs/STs.

Rural Sanitation Programme in North-Eastern Region

1222. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of Rural Development be pleased to state:

(a) the details of amount allotted and utilized under the Central Rural Sanitation Programme for the North-Eastern Region during the last five years; and

(b) the steps Government propose to take to provide more funds to NER for rural development?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Under the Central Rural Sanitation Programme the following amounts were allocated and

utilized (as per information received from State Governments) for the North-Eastern Region during the last five years:

(Rs. in lakh)

Year	Allocation	Utilization
1995-1996	211.00	86.30
1996-1997	217.00	82.98
1997-1998	406.00	131.09
1998-1999	977.00	98.48
1999-2000	1095.53	43.04 (Prov.)

(b) During the current financial year under the Central Rural Sanitation Programme, Rs. 14 crore has been allocated to North Eastern Region against Rs. 10.96 crore allocated during last year, while is a substantial increase.

Amount provided to district development agencies in Madhya Pradesh

†1223. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELPMI[illegible] be pleased to state:

(a) the district-wise amount provided by the Central Government and the State Government to district development agencies in Madhya Pradesh during the years 1995-96 and 1996-97;

(b) the year-wise amount of interest on the above amount paid by banks to each of the district rural development agencies;

(c) what are the directives in respect of utilisation of funds received as interest amount and;

(d) what are the details of such districts in Madhya Pradesh where there is no such village which is yet to be linked with all weather metalled roads including bridges and culverts?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.